

CLAIMS

1. A method of preparing the surface of a coated structure for the application of an overcoat, the method comprising:
 - 5 cleaning the surface of the coat with cleaning solution; and
 - applying an oxidising agent to the surface.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning comprises soaking the surface of the coat with the cleaning solution.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the soaking is for a time in the range from about 30 seconds to about 5 minutes.
- 10 4. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleaning comprises agitating the surface of the coat with the cleaning solution.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the agitating is for a time in the range from about 30 seconds to about 20 minutes.
6. A method according to claim 4, wherein the agitating is for a time in the range from about 2 minutes to about 10 minutes.
- 15 7. A method according to any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the agitating comprises agitating the surface with a brush.
8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleaning comprises soaking the surface of the coat before agitating the surface with the cleaning solution.
- 20 9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleaning solution is an alkaline cleaner.
10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cleaning solution is a water-based cleaner.
- 25 11. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the oxidising agent is peroxide.
12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide.

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13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the hydrogen peroxide is in the range from about 1% to about 10%.
14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the hydrogen peroxide is 3%.
- 5 15. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the applying the oxidising agent comprises spraying the oxidising agent onto the surface of the coat.
16. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the coat is paint.
17. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the coat is a primer.
- 10 18. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the overcoat is paint.
19. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the structure is metallic.
20. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the structure is formed of a composite material.
- 15 21. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the structure is an aircraft or aerospace structure.
22. A method of applying an overcoat to the surface of a coated structure, the method comprising:
 - 20 preparing the surface of the coat in accordance with the method of any preceding claim; and
 - applying the overcoat.
23. A method substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 25 24. A coated structure wherein the structure has been treated in accordance with the method of any preceding claim.
25. A coated structure according to claim 24, wherein the structure is an aircraft or aerospace structure.

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26. A cleaning kit for preparing the surface of the coat of a coated structure for the application of an overcoat, the kit comprising a cleaning solution and an oxidising agent.